REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Notice of Non-Compliance mailed on March 3, 2004. In response to the Notice of Non-Compliance, Appellants hereby submit a Substitute Brief for Appellants in triplicate to respond to non-compliant items 1-6 and 9 set forth in the Notice of Non-compliance.

In response to non-compliant item no. 1, Appellants' Substitute Brief deletes the description of the reference section and is submitted in triplicate.

Item No. 2 provides that Appellants' Brief is non-compliant since Appellants' Brief did not contain a status of all claims, including pending claims, cancelled claims, and appealed claims. Appellants' original Brief on page 2 contained a status of all the claims including cancelled claims, withdrawn claims, pending claims, allowed claims, claims objected to, rejected claims and claims appealed. In respond to non-compliant item no. 2, Appellants' Substitute Brief similarly includes a status of all the claims including the pending claims, cancelled claims, appealed claims, allowed claims and objected claims.

Item no. 3 states that Appellant should state that "the amendment after filed [sic] (dated) has been entered. Appellants filed a Response after Final but did not file an Amendment After Final which has or has not been entered.

In item no. 4, Appellants' summary of the invention was objected to on the basis that "the summary does not described [sic] the feature as a carousel coupling device" and that the summary includes structural features such as a vacuum supply or vacuum source 269 in reference to Figs. 7 and 5 that are not found in the appealed claims. Appellants have amended the summary of the invention to recite a carousel coupling device. With respect to the description of the vacuum source, appealed claim 3 recites a vacuum source as described.

Appellants' Brief was subjected to a notice of non-compliance as set forth in item 5 on the basis that Issues I and II on page 3 of Appellants' original brief should be recited as a

single issue. Appellants' substitute Brief recites a single issue regarding the patentability of claims 1-3, 21 and 27-28.

Appellants' Brief was subject to a notice of non-compliance on the basis of item 6(a), since the brief omits the statement that the claims do not stand or fall together, yet presents arguments in support thereof in the argument section of the brief. On page 3, under the heading GROUPING OF THE CLAIMS, Appellants' Brief recites that the grouping of the claims are made solely in the interest of consolidating issues and expediting this appeal. No grouping of claims is intended to be nor should be interpreted as being any form of admission or a statement as to the scope or obviousness of any limitation. The claims of each group do not stand or fall together. Thus, Appellants' Brief does contain the recited statement set forth in item 6(a).

On page 2 of the Notice of Non-Compliance, item 6 recites that "there is no statement that explanation of why the claims of the group do not fall together, and why the claims of the group are believe [sic] to be separated" Appellants' brief contains separate arguments for patentability of claims 1, 2 and 27 (Group I-pages 4-6), claims 3 (Group II-page 6), claim 28 (Group III - pages 6-7) and claim 21 (Group IV - pages 7-8) and thus it is believed that Appellants' Brief is in compliance.

Item No 9 indicates that there are additional non-compliant items - see continuation sheet although the continuation sheet do not list a non-compliant item no. 9. Clarification is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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